

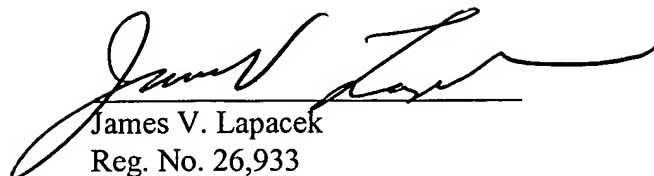
REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments and the references cited in the above-identified Office Action. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 as either being anticipated by the Parks reference or obvious in view of the combination of the Parks reference and the Short III reference. The claims have been amended to more distinctly point out applicants' invention and are now considered to be in allowable form, specifically, claims 1 and 7 have been amended.

For example, the subject matter of claim 1 is directed to a pressure relief arrangement for a housing including two housing portions, the pressure relief arrangement comprising a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions, first means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions, and second means operative with the first means and independent of the sealing member such that the first means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through the second means for responding to overpressure within the housing, the second means comprising at least one member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value. This arrangement is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art including the Parks and Short III references. Neither of these references disclose or suggest such second means independent of a sealing member and through which the compressive sealing force is applied solely by the first means. In the Parks reference, the spaced disks are merely clamped between the portions by the fastening means. Similarly, claims 3-6 depending from claim 1 recite additional aspects of applicants' invention, e.g. relating to structure and function of the rupture disc members and the focusing of applied forces. Thus, claims 1 and 3-6, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form. Applicants' invention as recited in claim 7 is also considered to be in allowable form for the same reasons as discussed in connection with claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-7, as amended and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James V. Lapacek", is written over a horizontal line.

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